Euro-Interferometry

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National Interferometry Networks

- Three countries have created national networks or centers that coordinate some or most of the interferometry activities
  - France: JMMC
  - Germany: FRINGE
  - Netherlands: NEVEC
- Coordination between the activities of these centers and extension to other European countries is highly desired

Participants

- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- England
- ESA
- ESO
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Italy
- Netherland
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Switzerland

Plan: Submit Proposal for I3 within FP6 of EU

- I3: Integrated Infrastructure Initiative
  - Instrument within 6th Framework Program of European Union
  - Open for proposers in all fields of science
  - Budget “a few” M€
  - Combines networking activities, transnational access to existing equipment, and joint research projects

Meetings

- FRINGE, JMMC, NEVEC:
  - January 31, Heidelberg
  - March 18, Nice
- With all participants:
  - May 22, Leiden
  - September 7, Porto
  - October 30/31, Nice

Why a European Network?

- Good use of available resources
  - Share software / calibrator lists etc.
  - Avoid duplication of effort
- Create synergies
  - Joint development projects
  - Opportunities for students / postdocs
- Visibility within astronomical community
  - Start collaborations with people in other fields
  - Muster support for interferometry projects
  - Attract bright young people

Why a European Network (cont'd)?

- Planning for next-generation facility
  - Science case and conceptual design
  - Technology roadmap
  - Need to start now if interferometry is to play a role in ELT era
- Access to funds from other EU programs
  - Human resources & Mobility
  - Design studies
- Primary motivation not €€ from Commission

Time Table

(a) *Transnational Access* and *Integrated Infrastructure Initiatives (I3s)*: a minimum of EUR 250 million;

Call No.	*Publication date*	*Indicative budget*	*Indicative start of contracts*
Call a.1	End 2002 – early 2003	EUR 190 million	End 2003 – early 2004
Call a.2	End 2004	EUR 60 million (minimum)	Late 2005

(b) *Design Studies* and *Construction of New Infrastructures*: a maximum of EUR 198 million.

Call No.	*Publication date*	*Indicative budget*	*Indicative start of contracts*
Call b.1	Mid 2003 (Open call, with proposals evaluated at regular intervals)	EUR 198 million (maximum)	- Early 2004 - Early 2005 - Early 2006

Possible Networking Activities

- Software standards and dissemination (common protocols, interoperability, spread best practice)
- Foresight studies (development of vision for future interferometric facilities)
- Professional education program (summer schools, international graduate course)
- Prize committee (distinguished named fellowship, named lecture)
- Publicity and outreach (including web site)

Possible Transnational Access Initiative

- Collaborative observing projects (no change of formal telescope access policies)
- Include astronomers in Candidate Countries

Possible Joint Research Programs

- Use of existing facilities
- Algorithms, software packages, calibration, modeling tools
- Technology roadmap
- DARWIN science and technical preparation